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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS - 45

AUGUST 14, 1946

## FARM POPULATION INCREASED

United States farm population during 1945 showed a net increase for first time since 1932. Number of people living on farms January 1, 1946 estimated 25,990,000, which was 800,000 more than year previous. Comparative figures of farm population showed 30,480,000 in January 1939, 32,033,000 in 1933, 31,614,000 in 1920 and 32,077,000 in 1910. One-half of the net increase in farm population was men returning from armed forces. Remaining increase due to usual excess of births over deaths. Migration of civilian population to and from farms was just equal in 1945.

## TAXES PER ACRE JUMPED 10 PERCENT

Average real estate taxes per acre in 1945 were more than 10 percent higher than in 1944 - largest year-to-year change in more than a decade. However, taxes per hundred dollars of real estate value declined slightly, from 80 cents in 1944 to 79 cents in 1945, largely due to rising land values.

## RECORD WHEAT CROP MADE

Record wheat crop virtually harvested. August 1 estimate 1,160 million bushels total. *Winter wheat* largely harvested, estimated 880 million bushels, exceeds previous record of 825 million in 1931 by 6.6 percent. All *spring wheat* indicated 280 million bushels, 6 percent under last year but 24 percent above average. Spring wheat harvest well along. Wheat production largest on record in Oklahoma, Nebraska, Idaho, and Washington.

The *carryover* of old wheat this July was about 101 million bushels, which, added to the prospective new crop, would give domestic wheat supplies in 1946-47 of over 1,261 million bushels. Carryover is the smallest in 20 years, except for 1937. Carryover July 1, 1947, thought likely will amount to 250 to 300 million bushels.

## RECORD CORN CROP MAKING

Improvement in corn prospect brought August 1 forecast up to 3½ billion bushels, 16 percent over last year and 34 percent above 1935-44 average. This would be a record corn crop; indicated average yield of 38.2 bushels per acre would also be a record. Yield per acre last year was 33.1 bushels, the 1935-44 average 28.5 bushels. In parts of the Corn Belt east of the Mississippi there is considerable late corn which might suffer from an early frost; west of the river, the crop is farther advanced.

## SECOND LARGEST OATS CROP

Oats crop, from August 1 indications, 1,499 million bushels, second only to the record crop of 1,548 million in 1945. Would be about a third larger than 10-year average. Prospective yield 34.8 bushels per acre compared with 37.3 last year and average of 30.7. Oats harvest is well along.

## PLENTY OF POTATOES

Potato crop forecast 445 million bushels compared with 425 million last year and about 373 million average. This year's crop promises to be second to the 465 million bushels record grown in 1943. Indicated yield 163.3 bushels per acre, 12.7 bushels higher than the record yield in 1945. An important contribution to this year's crop is the extensive use of DDT spray against insects.

*Sweet potato* prospect placed at 65.6 million bushels, slightly below 1945 and average (66.4 million).

## OILSEED CROPS SOMEWHAT SMALLER

*Flaxseed* crop estimated 21.9 million bushels, about 6 percent below average and much lower than in 1945, both acreage and yield being below last year. Yield per acre as indicated August 1 will be 8.9 bushels compared with 9.4 bushels last year and average yield of 8.3 bushels.

*Soybean* crop indicated 186 million bushels, about 3 percent under last year's crop and smallest since 1941.

*Peanut* production for picking and threshing indicated 2,091 million pounds. This compares with 2,052 million pounds last year. The acreage for picking and threshing is somewhat lower this year: 3,146,000 acres compared with 3,216,000 acres last year.

## ANOTHER MODEST COTTON CROP

Cotton crop, based upon information August 1, forecast at 9,290,000 bales (500 pound gross weight bales). Such a crop would be 275,000 bales or 3.1 percent above the small 1945 crop but 3¼ million bales below the 10 year average. Prospective yield of lint per acre 247.9 pounds, compared with 251 pounds per acre harvested in 1945 and the 10 year average of 243.2 pounds. If abandonment is equal to average, the acreage for harvest this season would be around 17,991,000 acres. This is only 4.4 percent above last year's harvested acreage which was the smallest since 1884.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	JUNE 15 1945	JULY 15 1946	JULY 15 1946
Wheat, bu. . . . .	dol. 1.74	1.87	1.76
Corn, bu. . . . .	dol. 1.42	1.96	1.28
Peanuts, lb. . . . .	ct. 8.83	8.97	9.55
Cotton, lb. . . . .	ct. 25.98	30.83	24.68
Potatoes, bu. . . . .	dol. 1.47	1.48	1.47
Hogs, 100 lb. . . . .	dol. 14.30	16.80	14.50
Beef cattle, 100 lb. . . . .	dol. 14.10	16.60	10.80
Veal calves, 100 lb. . . . .	dol. 14.80	16.60	13.40
Lambs, 100 lb. . . . .	dol. 14.30	15.90	11.70
Butterfat, lb. . . . .	ct. 52.1	70.6	<sup>1</sup> 48.8
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. . . . .	dol. 3.39	3.83	<sup>1</sup> 2.96
Chickens, live, lb. . . . .	ct. 26.6	29.4	22.7
Eggs, doz. . . . .	ct. 33.5	37.1	<sup>1</sup> 41.1

<sup>1</sup>Adjusted for seasonal variation.

### FEWER CHICKENS; HIGH FEED COST

Number of eggs laid in July 4,221 million, about a percent fewer than year ago although 16 percent above 1935-44 average. Egg production first 7 months this year 38 billion eggs, 1 percent under same period in 1945, although 28 percent above average.

Number of layers on farms during July, 303 million, 5 percent under year ago but 12 percent above average. Number of potential layers August 1 (all hens and pullets) 7 percent less than year ago. Young pullets not of laying age 291 million, 9 percent under year ago.

Average prices received by farmers for eggs in mid-July 37.1 cents a dozen compared with 37.9 cents year ago and average of 23.6 cents. Average price received for chickens in mid-July 29.4 cents a pound, highest price in 37 years of record, compares with 28.5 cents year ago and average of 17.3 cents.

Average cost of poultry ration to United States farmers in mid-July \$3.94 per hundred pounds, the highest in 23 years of record, compares with \$2.90 year ago and \$2.06 for the 10-year average. The ration cost increased 45 cents per hundred pounds during the past month.

Output of chicks by commercial hatcheries during June was 56 million, which was 70 percent under June 1945. Commercial hatcheries in first 6 months of 1946 produced 1,023 million birds, 19 percent under same period last year. Decline in hatchings primarily due to tight feed situation and heavy reduction in egg-feed price ratio during April-June. Number of eggs set July 1 for hatching was 75 percent under previous year.

### FEWER LEGS-O-LAMB COMING

Number of spring lambs saved this year estimated, 26,110,000, a reduction of 7 percent under last year, 14 percent under the 10 year average, and smallest lamb crop since 1927. "Native" states (east of Texas and the Rockies) saved only 8,516,000 lambs, 8 percent under last year and 29 percent below average. "Western" states, with about two-thirds of the country's sheep population, saved 17,594,000 lambs, 6 percent under last year and 11 percent below average. Lambs have made good growth on good pasture except in few drought areas of Southwest.

The quantity of *shorn wool* in 1946 is estimated at 299 million pounds, 22 million pounds or 7 percent below last year, 19 percent below average, and smallest since 1927. Reduction is due to fewer sheep, average weight per fleece being higher than last year.

### SMALLER MILK PRODUCTION AHEAD?

Milk production in July estimated 12 billion pounds, down 3 percent from July 1945, largest percentage decline (under year ago) in any month since January. Number of milk cows mid-year estimated 4 percent under 1945. Production per cow, however, was highest for the month in 22 years of record. Milk production per capita of United States population in July averaged 2.74 pounds, somewhat above the 10-year July average although lower than in three of the past five years.

Number of spring *heifer calves* saved this year for herds smallest since late 1930's. Indications point to number of calves 1 year old being kept for milk cows will be 5 to 10 percent fewer next January 1, than year previous.

### MORE HELP BACK ON THE FARMS

Number of farm workers August 1 was 11,044,000, largest August total employed on farms since 1942. Number *family* workers 8,258,000 compared with 7,970,000 a year ago. Number of *hired* workers 2,786,000 compared with 2,642,000 year ago. The number of hired workers was larger than in last 2 years but still about 10 percent less than during 1940-42. (New England had fewer hired farm workers this August than a year ago).

Number of foreign workers on U.S. farms as of July 26: Mexicans, 39,349; Jamaicans, 11,115; Bahamians, 4,701; British Hondurans, 135; Barbadians, 2,866; Newfoundlanders, 624; total foreign workers, 59,156.

### CASH RECEIPTS

Total cash receipts of farmers from products sold during May (including Government payments) was 1,657 million dollars, compared with 1,536 million year earlier. Government payments in May totaled 106 million dollars, compared with 72 million year earlier. Total cash receipts January-May 7,755 million dollars, 7,787 million year previous. These included 498 million dollars Government payments this year against 417 million in January-May last year. Preliminary estimate cash receipts in first 6 months of 1946 about 3 percent below that in same period last year (which was 8,900 million dollars).

### HEAVY WHEAT EXPORTS

Exports of United States grain and grain products during July totaled 942,000 long tons (35,570,000 bushels). This total included: wheat 512,000 tons, and flour 279,000 tons.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142 - Branch 4407.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	JULY 1946
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	244
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	199
Parity ratio . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	123
Wholesale prices of food . .	1910-14 = 100	208
Retail prices of food . . . .	1910-14 = 100	<sup>1</sup> 184
Farm wage rates . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	390
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	<sup>2</sup> 374
RATIOS	LONG-TIME JULY - AVERAGE	JULY 1946
Hog-corn ratio, U. S. . . . .	11.7	8.6
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. . .	22.4	21.7
Milk-feed ratio, U. S. . . . .	1.16	1.06
Egg-feed ratio, U. S. . . . .	11.5	9.4
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN.-JUNE 1945	JAN.-JUNE 1946
Milk, (Bil. lb.) . . . . .	63.5	62.2
Eggs, (Bil.) . . . . .	33.8	33.8
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . .	3,476	2,549
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	459	455
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.) . . .	4,232	4,494
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	8,470	7,720

<sup>1</sup>May figure.

<sup>2</sup>Factory pay roll per employed worker, May figure.